TRENDS

12/9/88

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 1, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended November 26 totaled an estimated 16.0 billion ton-miles, up 2.6 percent from the 15.6 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today. Both weeks included the Thanksgiving holiday.

Cumulative volume for the first 47 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 903.4 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.0 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended November 26 totaled 356,976, up 2.8 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but down 21.0 percent from the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 4.2 percent in the West and 1.3 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 11 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal loadings increased by 5,529 cars (5.3 percent) and metallic ores were up 3,000 cars (18.4 percent). Grain decreased by 4,198 cars (17.5 percent). Nineteen of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended November 19 totaled 119,010 trailers and/or containers, down 2.0 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 46 weeks of the year was 5,075,740 trailers and/or containers, up 4.2 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 11/26/88:

	Loadings in Week ended November 26, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	19,729	D	4,198	17.5	D	9,009	31.3
Other farm products	3,637	I	548	17.7	D	695	16.0
Metallic ores	19,290	I	3,000	18.4	D	1,607	7.7
Coal	110,302	I	5,529	5.3	D	22,775	17.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,199	I	678	6.4	D	6,301	36.0
Nonmetallic minerals	7,517	I	1,135	17.8	D	2,482	24.8
Grain mill products	9,396	D	220	2.3	D	1,433	13.2
Food and kindred products	9,102	D	43	0.5	D	2,231	19.7
Primary forest products	6,872	D	408	5.6	D	3,453	33.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	5,533	D	493	8.2	D	1,714	23.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,151	D	328	2.9	D	307	2.7
Chemicals and allied products	22,833	I	1,081	5.0	D	6,177	21.3
Petroleum products	4,205	I	275	7.0	D	1,045	19.9
Stone, clay and glass products	8,290	D	46	0.6	D	2,556	23.6
Coke	5,484	I	231	4.4	I	6	0.1
Metals and products	9,165	I	1	0.0	D	713	7.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,023	I	1,851	13.1	D	7,197	31.0
Waste and scrap materials	6,780	D	706	9.4	D	3,128	31.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	1,686	D	499	22.8	D	619	26.9
All other carloads	68,782	I	2,195	3.3	D	21,406	23.7
Total Cars Loaded	356,976	I	9,583	2.8	D	94,842	21.0
Corresponding week of 1987	347,393						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (47 weeks)	20,056,982	19,217,815	I 4.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
46 weeks ended November 19	887.4	836.7	I 6.1
Week ended November 26	16.0	15.6	I 2.6
47 Weeks cumulative	903.4	852.3	I 6.0

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